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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To: Examiner Nguyen

Facsimile No: 571-273-5962

From: Timothy D. Evans

Date: December 18, 2008

Re: U. S. Patent Application No. 10/698,496

Pages: 3 *(including cover page)*

Comments: Please see the attached.

Thank you.

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Dear Examiner Nguyen,

Further to our telephone conversation today and in preparation for our telephonic interview scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 2:00pm, I offer you the following highlights of the points that I would like to discuss.

An important aspect of the present invention is that the diameter of the lumens remains nearly constant through the tapered portion of the catheter. This can be assured through the manufacturing process shown in Fig. 6B where forming mandrels 60, 62 remain during the drawing process. Accordingly, **the distances between the lumens** (e.g., 104 in Fig 9A and 114, 118, 126 in Fig. 9B (shown below)) are reduced in the tapered portion.

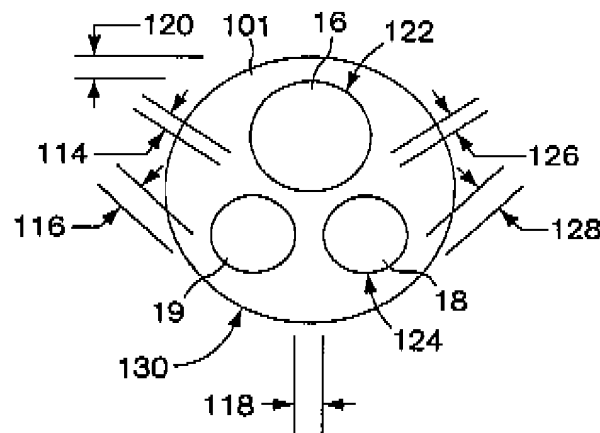


Fig. 9B

In light of the forgoing, independent claims 14 and 26 were amended to recite “the lumens being spaced apart from one another by a predetermined distance in the untapered length, a corresponding distance between the lumens in the tapered portion being different from the predetermined distance.”

In the Office Action, you allege that Sadamasa discloses that “the diameter of lumens are smaller than the diameter at the untapered portion, thus, the **distance between the center of one lumen to the center of another lumen** at the distal tip is smaller compare to the **distance between the center of one lumen to the center of another lumen** at the untapered portion” (Emphasis added).

Our argument is that the recited phrase “the lumen spaced apart from one another by a predetermined distance” is not related to the “distance between the center of one lumen to the center of another lumen.” The lumen is the entire opening, such that the distance one lumen is spaced apart from another lumen is the wall thickness between the lumens. In other words, the **distance a lumen is spaced apart from another lumen** is as shown in

Fig. 9B above, and is not the **distance between the centers of two lumens**, as interpreted.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time to discuss these points further. We will contact you at the scheduled time, unless we hear otherwise from you.

Have a Happy Holidays.